



# DOG PARKS

## Why are dog parks important?

Dog parks benefit both dog owners and non-owners alike by:

- Providing a legal recreational outlet for dog owners who want to exercise and socialize their dogs in a safe, leash-free environment.
- Preventing unwanted encounters between unleashed dogs and other park users.
- Allowing people with limited mobility to exercise their dogs in a safe, accessible place.
- Bringing people together to promote a greater sense of community.
- *Dogs are only allowed off leash at Ellison and Greece Canal Dog Parks.*

## How do I register my dog/s?

All owners must register their dog/s with the Monroe County Department of Parks in order to use the Dog Parks. Permits are not prorated and expire December 31 of the current permit year.

- There are **TWO** ways to register:
  - #1** - Dogs can be registered during normal business hours: M- F 8:30am- 4:30pm at 171 Reservoir Avenue, Rochester, NY, 14620. There is plenty of free, off-street parking, and we can make copies of your licensing documents.
  - #2** - Staff will also be available at the dog parks for on-site registration, periodically. Weather permitting, park staff will be located directly at the dog park/s. In case of inclement weather, staff will be located at either Creekside Lodge at Ellison Park, or the Labor Center (park office) at Greece Canal Park. Be sure to check [www.monroecounty.gov/parks](http://www.monroecounty.gov/parks) or [www.facebook.com/groups/205224056347/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/205224056347/) for information on upcoming on-site registration dates and times.
- You will need to bring:
  - Copies of your dog's License (from the town that you live in) with current address, and Rabies Certificate (from the Vet or Clinic) as we will need to keep copies on file (documents, not the tags).
    - *We can make copies of your documents at the Park Office, and take pictures of your documents on-site at the park.*
  - There is a \$24 per dog fee that can be paid via cash, check, money order, or credit/debit. Credit/debit card payments will be \$25 per dog, which includes service fees.
  - All fees collected are deposited in the Dog Park Trust Fund, and are allocated solely to Dog Park expenses.
- On-site you will need to:
  - Complete a Permit Application.
  - Sign an Acknowledgement, Agreement, and Release Form.
  - *Permit Application and Acknowledgement, Agreement, and Release Forms are available only where you register.*

## How do the Dog Parks work?

- The Dog Parks are self-monitoring; there are no Park Staff assigned to monitor Dog Park activity.
- The Park Staff will re-stock the dog poop bag dispensers, empty the dog poop receptacles, and perform any necessary maintenance.
- Once your dog is registered, you will receive a lock code/combination that will provide you access to Ellison and Greece Canal Dog Parks.
  - The lock code is required to **BOTH** enter and exit the dog park.
  - We request that users please not give the code to unregistered users. This is to help protect our dog park and aid registered users in caring for the park.
  - Remember to close all gates as you enter and exit the Dog Parks.
- Each time you renew your registration, you will also receive a metal tag with the appropriate year written on it.
  - The tag for the current year is expected to be on the dog's collar at all times when you are using the Dog Parks, so that others may easily identify you and your dog as members.
- The Dog Parks are open year-round, from 7am until dusk.
- If you witness or experience a dangerous or unlawful situation, you are encouraged to call 911.
- Owners are expected to:
  - Have voice control over their dog/s and keep their dog/s in sight at all times while in the off-leash area, and shall be responsible for the conduct of such animal and shall be responsible for all injury to person or property caused by the dog.
  - Clean up after their dog/s.
  - Must immediately leash and remove from the off-leash area a dog showing aggression toward persons or other dogs.
  - Not bring more than 3 dogs in the off-leash area at one time.
- For the safety of all dogs and humans:
  - No food (human or dog), alcohol, smoking, or glass
  - No children under 10
  - No choke, pronged, or spiked collars
  - No large dogs in the small dog area
  - No dogs in heat, or that are ill or injured
  - No dogs under 6 months old
- Please see [www.monroecounty.gov/parks](http://www.monroecounty.gov/parks) for all Dog Park Rules, Protocol, Etiquette, FAQ, etc.